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ASTRO BOY
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087

NOW ON SALE!

RACER-X 4
By Steve Sullivan, Vince Argondezzi, Brian Thomas & Marcus David
Something is up at AZIMUTH CONTROL, and it defiantly is not good!
MONTHLY!!

ASTRO BOY 15
By Ken Steacy & Andrew Pratt
The DINOSAURS have returned from the dead and are creating havoc throughout the world! In this issue ASTRO BOYand ASTRO GIRL discover that it's caused by extraterrestrials!
MONTHLY!!

SPEED RACER 16
By Lamar Waldron, Joe Phillips, John Dell III, & John Vogel.
SPEED and TRIXIE pose for photographs for a popular AUTO magazine, and wait 'til you see SPEED's face when the magazine uses the bikini shot of TRIXIE as the centerfold!!! PLUS: The RACER family in Africa! Mitch O' Connell cover!!
MONTHLY!!

THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS 5
By James Van Hise, John Tobias, Brian Thomas, & Rich Powers.
Bank Robbers have a special technique for their success; a WEREWOLF!!??
MONTHLY!!

TERMINATOR 4
By Jack Herman, Thomas Tenney, Jim Brozman, & Rich Powers.
On a small island off the coast of Africa their is a tribe that talks about the blacken sky of thirty years before. They don't why, until SKYNET sends a Terminator to destroy the rain forests, thus destroying humanity. It's the plasma-rifle against the six foot spear in a most unusual story!
MONTHLY!!

RALPH SNART 4
By Marc Hansen
"My summer of illrepute" in full fabulous color! If you haven't tried this book; start with this one!
MONTHLY!!

FRIGHT NIGHT 3
Jim Van Hise, Lenin Delsol & Katherine Llewellyn
ALL NEW STORY!!!! The Brain-bats from outer space give Peter Vincent and Charley Brewster a major problem with another type of UNDEAD!!!
MONTHLY!!

THE ORIGINAL ASTRO BOY 15

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KEN STEACY
ILLUSTRATED BY
KEN STEACY & ANDREW PRATT
LETTERED BY
ANDREW PRATT
COVER BY
KEN STEACY
ORIGINAL STORY AND CHARACTERS BY
DR. OSAMU TEZUKA

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR...

August 24, 1988

Dear Sirs,

Please bear with me...

Sometime in 1964:

CURTIS: "Mom, if I'm still sick tomorrow, can I stay home from school and watch Astro Boy?"

MOM: "If you're not feeling any better tomorrow, you may stay home."

A smile of satisfaction crosses the seven-year old's face.

Early July 1988:

SCOTTIE: "Dad, what kind of cartoons did you watch when you were a kid?"

CURTIS: "Well, my favorite cartoon was about a boy robot by the name of Astro Boy."

SCOTTIE: "A boy robot! Sounds great! Is Astro Boy still on T.V.?"

CURTIS: "I'm afraid not, son. I wish he were."

Late July 1988:

My nephews Andy, Dwayne and Ike, (along with my son, Scottie), return from buying comics at a local convenient store.

IKE: "...and I got GHOSTBUSTERS!"

CURTIS: "What's going on?"

ANDY: "He's talking about Now Comics; a new company."

CURTIS: "What's so "new" about them?"

ANDY: "They've got THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS, SPEED RACER, ASTRO BOY..."

CURTIS: "ASTRO BOY! ASTRO BOY! Let me see that!"

A smile of satisfaction crosses the thirty-year old's face.

Thanks Guys and Gals,

Curtis Dunlap
Mayodan, NC 27027

Curtis... your very welcome.

Tony Caputo
Publisher

WHAT?!
CUTTING BACK ON OUR BUDGET TO FEED A BUNCH OF STUPID DINOSAURS ?!?!
ER, I'M AFRAID SO, GENERAL HAWKINS – IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL SECURITY
THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE OUTRAGE!!
GIVE-ME-A-BREAK!!
KRAK!
MAYBE THIS'LL CHEER YOU UP, GENERAL... MEGACORPS ARMAMENT DIVISION HAS COME UP WITH A MULTI-PURPOSE WEAPONS SYSTEM...
...AT A BARGAIN-BASEMENT PRICE!!
...AND WE HAVE THE PROTOTYPE RIGHT NEXT DOOR...

GENERAL HAWKINS... MAY I PRESENT...
MAJOR John E. Seven
THE ONE MAN ARMY!
GENERAL - SIR! UH, ER - MA'AM!

WELL, ASTRO, I'M GLAD YOU GOT THOSE DINOSAURS OFF THE STREET!
YOU'RE RIGHT, DEAR— NO TELLING WHAT KIND OF MAYHEM THEY COULD HAVE CAUSED!
I JUST HOPE THAT'S THE END OF THEM— THEY WERE QUITE A HANDFULL—!!
I THINK IT'S *NEAT* THAT THEY'RE IN THE ZOO— I'M SURE PEOPLE WILL EVEN *PAY* TO SEE THEM!
I SURE HOPE SO— IT COSTS A *FORTUNE* TO FEED THEM!
?!
MAY I HAVE SOME MORE PLEASE, MOM?
JINGLE! TINGLE! JINGLE!
OBOY!! THE *ICECREAM* MAN! *C'MON, ASTRO!!*
THIS EARLY? THAT'S RATHER ODD...

I WANNA ROCKETPOP OR MAYBE A PHANTOM BAR OR --
JINGLETINGLE!
WHAT'S THIS ? A LETTER...

A LETTER FOR ME...?

C'MON, C'MON — WE'RE GONNA MISS HIM!
UH, YOU GO AHEAD, SIS-

I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT RIGHT NOW...
OKAY! CAN I HAVE YOURS TOO?

SURE, UH, WHATEVER...
ASTRO, WHAT IS IT, DEAR?

YOU LOOK SO SOLEMN—
OH, NOTHING, MOM — I JUST WANT TO BE ALONE RIGHT NOW...

DEAR ASTRO

THERE IS SO MUCH I WANT TO SAY TO YOU, BUT FIRST, I MUST ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR THE WAY I TREATED YOU. HAVING LOST MY WIFE AND MY DEAR SON ASTOR IN SUCH TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES WAS MORE THAN I COULD BEAR- I SUPPOSE I WENT MAD, AND, WHEN THE MILITARY OFFERED ME UNLIMITED FUNDING TO DEVELOP THE ULTIMATE WEAPON, I SEIZED THE CHANCE TO RE-ANIMATE MY BOY.

THE FINEST MINDS AT THE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE WORKED DAY AND NIGHT, DRIVEN BY MY OBSESSIVE DESIRE TO GAIN BACK WHAT I HAD LOST...YOU ARE, OF COURSE, THE RESULT. I WAS, AT FIRST, OVERJOYED BY YOUR EXISTENCE, THEN REALIZED WHAT A CRUEL TRICK I HAD PLAYED ON MYSELF, AND SOUGHT TO REMEDY THE SITUATION BY SELLING YOU TO THE ROBOCIRCUS. I ONLY PRAY THAT I CAN SOMEHOW ATONE FOR THIS GREAT INJUSTICE!

ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE ENDOWED WITH GREAT POWERS- YOU ARE A WARRIOR AS WELL AS A CHILD- AND MUST BALANCE THESE ASPECTS OF YOUR CHARACTER, NEVER LETTING ONE OVERWHELM THE OTHER. THOUGH I NOW REALIZE THAT IT WAS FOOLHARDY TO TRY AND RECREATE MY SON, I AM PROUD THAT I WAS THE INSTRUMENT BY WHICH YOU CAME INTO EXISTENCE. YOU ARE INDEED A WONDERFUL BOY!

PLEASE ACCEPT ME AS YOUR FRIEND...

Dr. Boynton

HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!
WAIT UP!!
ZINGLE TINGLE!
NOW WHERE DID THAT SILLY TRUCK GET TO...? MAYBE IT WENT THIS WAY!
OH, SWELL! THERE IT IS....
HUH?!?

PSUK!
WHIRRR!!
JINGLE! ZINGLE!
MR. FREEZIE!
ZOOK!
WOW!! THIS IS TOTALLY AWESOME!! WAIT'LL I TELL ASTRO!!
GREE!
ONK!

AN ICECREAM TRUCK THAT MAKES DINOSAURS ?! WOW!! OOOPS!!
GRONK?!
UH-OH!
HELP, ASTRO!!
GRAAARNK!
SAVE M—!!
WHO THE HECK—?!
OH, JUST A FRIEND OF YOUR BROTHER'S!
WELL, THANKS FOR SAVING ME FROM BEING STOMPED ON, I——
——HEY, WHERE'D HE GO—?!
SNIFF? SNIFF?
SNORT!

BOY, THOSE DINOSAURS CERTAINLY DID CAUSE A GREAT DEAL OF CONSTERNATION AMONGST THE LOCAL POPULACE, DIDN'T THEY ?
YEAH, YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, CHIEF !
CHIEF
M'LAW
PLEASE KNOCK
WANTED
TRUMPFACE
CHIEF M'LAW !
WOULDN'T THAT BE REDUNDANT, INSPECTOR GUMSHOE ?

KNOCK! KNOCK!
I DIDN'T MEAN --

PACKAGE FROM — AHHH, LESSEE, OH YA, MEGACORP! SIGN HERE, PLEASE!
BAM!
EXPRESS OVERNITE
WHUD!

GOOD GRACIOUS, WHAT ON EARTH COULD THIS BE ?!
THANKS, GUYS !!
WHAT THE —?!? IT'S PROF. LANCE LUMIERE — AKA --

--AGENT R !!
FROM
MMRF ! MUFFL-RF !!

YOIKS! NOT ANOTHER ONE!!
GRONK!
EEECH!
CAR 54 TO CENTRAL! HAVE SPOTTED ANOTHER DINOSAUR! INTERSECTION OF BRENDAN BLVD. AND TRISTAN DRIVE!
BETTER SEND IN THE HEAVY ARTILLERY— IT'S A BIGGY!!
BETTER SEND IN THE HEAVY ARTILLERY— IT'S A BIGGY!!
THAT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER—!
MOM, DAD— WHERE'S ASTRO GIRL ?!
SHE'S NOT BACK YET...
SAY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE BACK IN A FLASH!!
I HOPE!!
VOOOM!

THERE'S THE DINOSAUR, NOW WHERE'S . . . ?
ASTRO, DOWN HERE !!
ASTRO GIRL ! THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT !
OH, ASTRO, IT'S SO EXCITING !!
I FOLLOWED THE ICE CREAM TRUCK AND IT TRANSFORMED INTO A WIERD MACHINE AND CREATED THAT DINOSAUR WHICH TRIED TO STEP ON ME . . .
. . . BUT I WAS SAVED BY A MASKED MAN AND THEN THE SOLDIER WITH THE GREAT BIG GUN PARACHUTED DOWN AND —
WOAH ! WHAT SOLDIER ?
THE ONE RIGHT OVER THERE — GEE, YOU I DON'T THINK HE'S GONNA HURT THAT POOR DINOSAUR, DO YOU ?!
NOT WHILE I'M AROUND, SIS !!

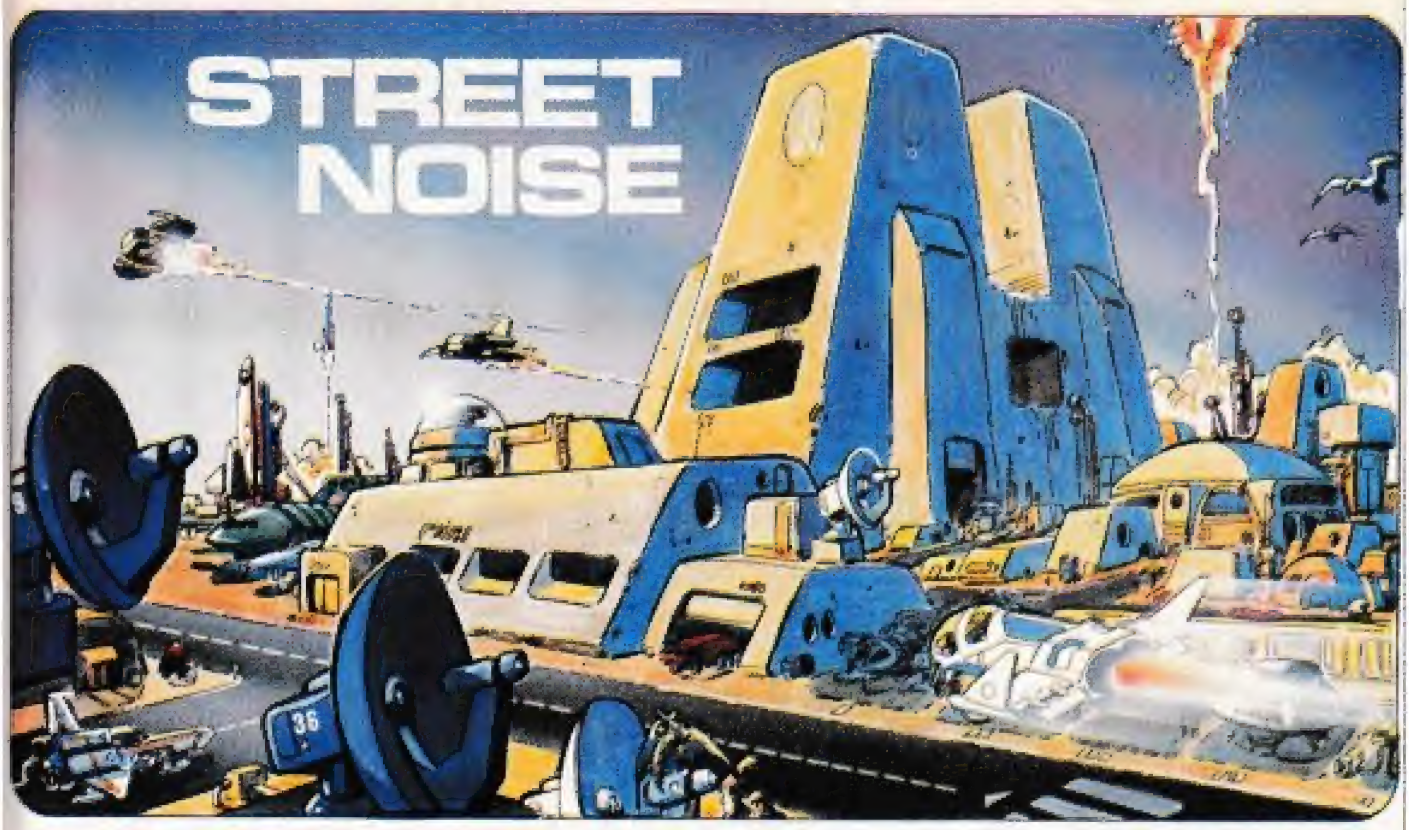
HAH, THIS'LL BE A SNAP! I'VE GOT HIM RIGHT...
SNURF? SNORK!
...BETWEEN...
STOP!
...THE EYES!
BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA!
BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA!
NO! THERE'S NO NEED TO --
KLIK -LIK!
WHAT?! IT'S THAT PESKY LITTLE ROBOT! OUTTA THE WAY, KID, BEFORE YA GET HURT— I CAN HANDLE THIS—!
SORRY, PAL, I GOT MY ORDERS!

SSSSSSSS
ZOING!
SWWWW!
WHOMP!
GRARNK!
VVVOOOOSH!!
WRAM!
BZT!
KA-FOOM!
EEEE

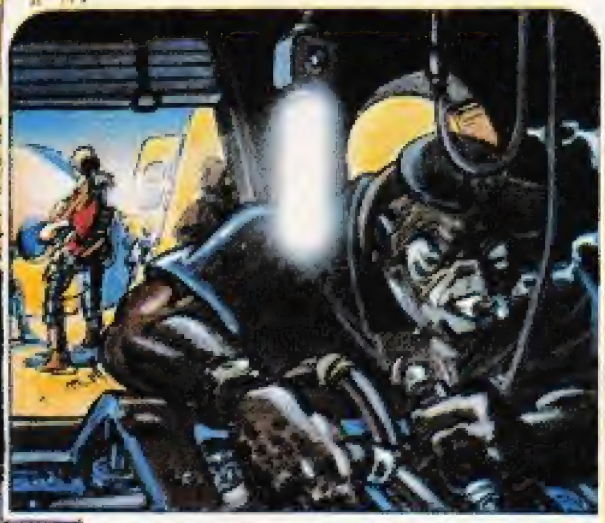
DARN! OUT OF ORDNANCE... BETTER RELOAD --
--HUH ?!
DOINK! DOINK!
WHA-WHA--!
GREETINGS-EARTHLINGS-
-WE-COME-IN-PEACE!
--WHA-WHA-WHA-WHULP!
WHAT'S GOING ON ? WHO ARE YOU ?!
WE-ARE-FROM-PLANET-ZILCH!

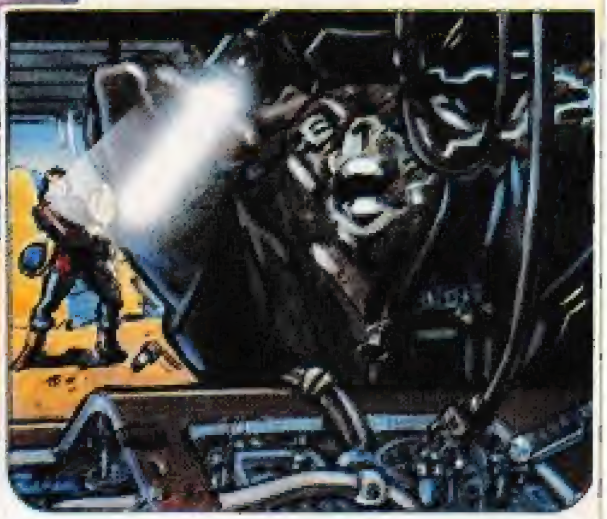
MANY-MILLIONS-OF-YOUR-YEARS-AGO-WE-BROUGHT-SAMPLES-OF-EARTH-CREATURES-BACK-TO-ZILCH-TO-STUDY!
THEN-PLACED-THEM-IN-SUSPENDED-ANIMATION-RECENTLY-WHILE-CLEANING-OUT-AN-OLD-STORAGE-AREA-WE-DISCOVERED-THEM-AND...
DECIDED-TO-RETURN-THEM-TO-WHERE-THEY-BELONG! WE-REDUCED-THEM-TO-AN-ATOMIC-MATRIX-AND-THEN-WE-REINTIGRATED-THEM-HERE-USING-EXISTING-MATTER!
MUCH-MORE-ECONOMICAL-WE LIKE-TO-TRAVEL-LIGHT!
LIGHT-SPEED-HA-HA!
BUT THE EARTH HAS CHANGED, THERE ARE PEOPLE LIVING HERE NOW—!
SORRY-ABOUT-THAT! WE'VE-GOTTA GO-SEE
-YOU-IN-ANOTHER-FEW MILLION-YEARS!
WOOOOMM!!
WAIT! THERE'S SO MUCH—! OH WELL...
HI, ZOOKEEPER McGREW— HERE'S THE VERY LAST ONE!
THANKS, ASTRO! PEOPLE ARE CLAMORING TO SEE 'EM— WE'RE MAKING A FORTUNE!

WELL, SIS – READY FOR YOUR BEDTIME STORY ?
NUMBER FOUR
VORTEX
$1.95
STEACY
YOU BET ! I HOPE THIS ONE HAS LOTTSA ALIENS IN IT !!



by KEN STEACY-





...FOR JASON-

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END

AND SO YOU SEE, WE MUSTN'T BE TOO QUICK TO JUDGE PEOPLE...
YEAH, YEAH - I GET IT - BUT I REALLY LIKED THE PART WHERE THE BIG, BERSERK ROBOT GOT HIS HEAD BLOWN OUT!
BBBRING!
OH, SIS...
'SCUSE ME A MINUTE. HELLO?
THAT WAS THE COOLEST!!
ASTRO - CAN YOU MEET ME AT ARMSTRONG SPACE BASE IMMEDIATELY?!
OF COURSE, DR. ELEFUN - WHAT'S UP?
IT LOOKS LIKE, GULP - ONE OF OUR MANNED PROBES IS MISSING!
NEXT:
SLAVES OF THE CYBOTS

ASTRO FANS!

Let's get one thing cleared up. It seems that some of you just don't quite get this center pin-up thinng. See your supposed to pull it out and pin it up. That's what it's for. There.Now, onward to the old letters pages. Quite the high brow analysis this month, so take it slowly.

Dear Astro-People,

One month ago I had never even heard of Astro Boy. You see, I collect many comics each month (about 40 different titles) and most of them were DC, Eclipse, First, or Comico. This was the case until last month. We happened to stop at a grocery store while driving through New York. On the comics rack I saw Rust 12 and Astro Boy 11 along with various DC and Marvel titles. Well, I picked them up and read them. I really didn't like Rust, but I thought Astro Boy was a lot of fun. It looks like your new distribution has paid off, because now I have just picked up Astro Boy 12 at the comic shop and I loved it! Ken Steacy is my very favorite cover artist and his cartoony style he uses in Astro Boy gives it a special feel. Thanx for making a full comic book for readers, old and new, to enjoy.

Tim Callahan
Berkshire, MA

Dear NOW,

Bravo for another excellent issue of Astro Boy. #12 was tops. I especially liked how Astro tricked his robotic adversary with the old "your tie has a spot" routine and got him with a laser zap from his finger. Somehow it didn't surprise me that he was equipped with that because days before I was contemplating on sending a pix. of that same concept to you sometime soon.

The last page with I.Q. Plenty and Spuds was funny too. Especially in Panel 3 when he mentions all the artists for The Mutex Comic. How many of you readers got that one? Here's to you, Ken and everyone else for keeping the quality of this book fresh and invigorating. Keep up the good work.

I have nothing to add here except for the poem below. Hope you enjoy it.

Astor's the greatest,
a robot so free,
A hero for one and all that I see.
And just like Jeff Lynne
he wants life "So Fine",
He's truly a marvel so ever divine.
Created in guilt out of loss for another,
But he truly knows he can't be the other.
Still Astro's pleased man made him today,
And with him around peace may know the way.
So here is to Astro,
a robot so free,
A machine who acts human like all folks should be.

Steven Acevedo
Bronx, NY

Peace, love and understanding. Geez, kinda gives you a warm feeling inside, doesn't it?

Dear Editor:

After issue #10 of Astro Boy (yeah, I know I've got #11 already, but...) I just had to write and let you know how much I enjoy reading the comic. While the artstyle is ...ahem...shall we say...unique, it's the coloring that really knocks me out! The vividness of it, as well as the tones used, really make the reader stand up and take notice. A few of the centerfold prints (most notably in issues 3, 6, 7 (wow!), and 10) have been the most impressive things I've ever

seen in American comics. As someone else who wrote in suggested, they should be posters.

What really prompted me to write was the end of issue #10. I'd forgotten that (in the series) Astro had parents (who looked similar to Elmer and Rebecca).

That last panel brought it all back! Ken did a nice job setting up the events to get us where we are right now. From here we can expect different directions for the story to take, new villians for Astro to fight. I can't wait! Way to go, guys! Keep it up, you're doin' fine.

Sincerely, Mark Dmuchowski
President, Manasota Anime Group

This darned thing is just chock full of twists and turns. A curve around every corner. And there's one now! Look out! Look out! Look out! Look out!

Dear Astro Fans;

A correspondent in #13 complained that Astro's speech about co-0poration in #10 almost made her sick. But that speech is right in line with Astro's character, and so contributes to the consistency of the characterization. He follows through in #11 p. 13 by saying, " violence is anhorent to my nature." He often gets rather self-righteous. He says, "No one can make you do things you don't want to do!" (#5). He says, "Stop! Fighting will not solve anything!"-- and follows through with actioon #8. And so on. The response of the editor on that letter was excellent as far as it went. I wonder whether that terrific battle in #3 was justified--I might have thought of some wiley tactic--But Astro plunged into it without a second thought. When reviewing the event in #11, he still says he had no choice.

He's always fearlessly--one could say fearfully--straightforward, and at times, I suggest, slightly robot-like.

When Astro destroys a cybershark in #10 and says, "When will they realize that physical violence is no solution to your problems!", I wonder whether the pronouns are confused to make us read it twice?

Kerry McCutchon
Regina, Sask.
Canada

There you have it readers, book three on laying bathroom tile. If we're going too fast for you, don't worry it's all in the book.

Just a bit of fun-poking at American television, unfortunately at your expense. Also unfortunate, is that I'm probably the only one who gets it.

Dear NOW Comics,

I am only elevan and I have tried to keep up with your comics as much as I can. I just recently bought your comic ASTRO BOY and it's truly wonderful and it 's very colorful, not like other comic books. A lot of them are dull. A big fan,

John Wright
Schenectady, NY

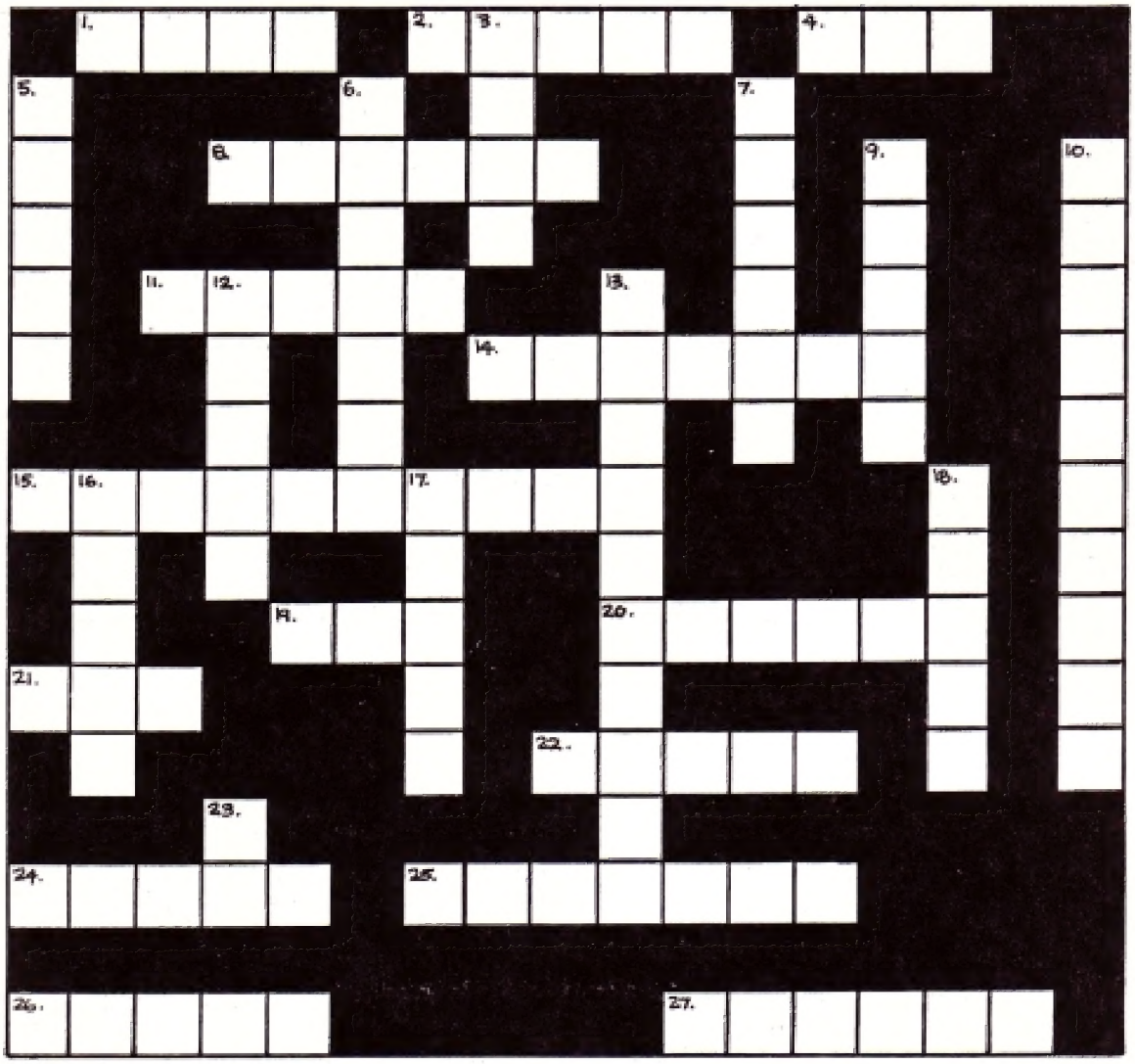
Out of the mouths of babes. Thanks for the letter John and I believe everything you say.

Dear Astrograms: I bet these nostalgic turkeys don't remember the theme song. It went something like this:

Astro Boy on the way,
On your mission today.
Rocket high, through the sky
For adventure soon you will face.
Astro Boy as you fly...
to the you will...
Atom celled, jet propelled
Fighting monsters high in the sky,
Astro Boy as you go
Will you fight friend or foe?
Cosmic ranger, rocket danger
Everything is go, Astro Boy!
...Cheer you, you're a hero
As you go, go, go Astro Boy!

M. Daniels
Capital Heights, MD

ASTRO FUN!



ACROSS
1. ASTOR'S MOTHER
2. _____BOY
4. ASTRO_____!
8. ASTRO'S FRIEND, DR. _____
11. GENETICS RESEARCHER AT THE INSTITUTE
14. ASTRO'S CREATOR
15. ROBO-CIRCUS RINGMASTER
19. INSPECTOR _____SHOE
20. SLIMED LANCE
21. THE BATTLING BATTERY
22. ARCHIE _____
24. A TINY 'BOT WITH A HUGE PERSONALITY
25. THE GENERAL
26. _____, THE MUTANT MARVEL
27. ASTRO'S SCHOOL TEACHER

DOWN
3. I.Q.'S SIDEKICK
5. ASTRO'S ROBOT FRIEND
6. TRUE LOVE OF ELMER
7. I.Q. _____
9. SPIDER IMPLANT
10. ROBOT THAT KIDNAPPED ARCHIE
12. DESERTED REBECCA
13. WENT BESERK ON THE INSTITUTE
16. WHAT BOYNTON CALLED ASTRO
17. THE GENERAL APPOINTED HIM DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE
18. KRYSTAL _____
23. INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE (INITIALS)

ANSWERS TO THIS MONTH'S ASTRO-FUN WILL BE LISTED IN NEXT MONTH'S LETTER COLUMN!